

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners DeWitt, Deemer, Martin, Robbins, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: Commissioners Chim and Gobble.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to grant Commissioners Chim and Gobble excused absences for the February 7, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner DeWitt seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, seconded by Commissioner Dewitt, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble).

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Commissioners and staff welcomed newly appointed Commissioners Deemer and Martin.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner DeWitt moved to approve the October 4, 2012 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble; Commissioners Deemer and Martin abstaining).

6B. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to approve the December 6, 2012 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Dewitt seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble; Commissioners Deemer and Martin abstaining).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. PRESENTATION REGARDING OUTDOOR SMOKE FREE INITIATIVES

Deferred to the March 7, 2013 Commission meeting.

7B. CITY RIDESHARE PROGRAM UPDATES

Deputy Director Cessna provided a report on the Torrance Rideshare Program and its recent conversion to a fully automated system that will be implemented later this month. She noted that the program would reduce staff time, allow participants to enter their own commute information, and simplify report generation. She stated that there are 11 7-passenger vans with an average occupancy of 80%; additionally, there are incentives for carpools, transit use, biking, walking, and use of zero-emission vehicles. She noted that the program generally has approximately 600 active participants at any given time and that the City has consistently exceeded the Average Vehicle Ridership target of 1.50 persons per vehicle per trip, achieving a rate of 1.52. She stated that a recent AQMD report submitted for the Program showed that the City reduced 3,040 trips each week and 110,156 trips each year.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, she stated that most of the van pools travel between 10 and 20 miles each way, but some come from Orange County and Pico Rivera.

Responding to Commissioner Robbin's inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna stated that only van pool participants pay a fee, with a subsidy level from Metro.

Commissioner DeWitt commended the Program and stated that he would be interested to know if participation increases when gas prices increase and if they could use natural gas in the future. In response to his inquiries, Deputy Director Cessna stated that the vans are leased from a rental agency with a portion paid by Metro and that the City provides preferred parking spaces for them.

Chairperson Griffiths inquired about the software development and staff explained that it was designed specifically for the Program in conjunction with the IT Department, adding that the City owns the program so there is no on-going licensing costs.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Robbins nominated Commissioner Chim for Vice-Chairperson of the Commission.

Commissioner DeWitt stated that he would prefer to wait for nominations and election when there is a full Commission present.

MOTION: Commissioner DeWitt moved to defer nominations and election of Vice-Chairperson of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission to the March 7, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble; absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble).

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

9A. Deputy Director Cessna provided upcoming items on Commission agendas for March, April, and May 2013: Smoke Free initiatives, Girl Scouts' Green Pride in Torrance award, urban beekeeping and chickens, leaf blowers, and Beacon Award and gold level energy partners with Southern California Edison.

9B. Commissioner DeWitt encouraged Commissioners to attend the City Council meeting when the Car2Go proposal is brought back and announced a general assembly "At What Cost?" on February 22, 2013.

9B. Commissioner Deemer inquired about TUSD's involvement with the City's reduction of energy use and staff stated that they would be included in the community component of the Climate Action Plan.

9C. Commissioner Robbins requested an excused absence for the March 7, 2013 Commission meeting.

9D. Commissioner Robbins challenged staff and Commissioners to focus on education and peer pressure and better utilize City resources for issues that affect a larger number of residents. He offered examples that include recycling, littering and storm drains, misuse of sprinklers, and use of cloth grocery bags.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:38 p.m., Commissioner Deemer moved to adjourn the meeting to March 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 7, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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